Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

#17D, 3da 923-02

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action (Paper No. 14), dated March 12, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

Delete the two (2) paragraphs which appear at page 22, lines 10-24, and replace them with the following:

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Figure 3 - shows a schematic view of the *R. corallina* ohp operon obtained by functional screening in *E. coli*, as described in Example 7. The schematic shows location of predicted genes: Regulator (SEQ ID No. 3), Transport (SEQ ID No. 4), Monooxygenase (SEQ ID No. 5), Hydroxymuconic semialdehye hydrolase (SEQ ID No. 6), Catechol-2,3-dioxygenase (SEQ ID No. 7), Alcohol dehydrogenase (SEQ ID No. 8). Initiator and terminator codons are shown as half height and full height lines respectively. Base coordinates refer to the Figure 4 sequence. The location of predicted promoter regions and direction are indicated by arrows. The molecular weights and coordinates of ohp genes are tabulated.